

frequency. The notches are relatively small and are only filled with air. This differs from prior art devices which use a permeable material. A relief opening is provided at the bottom of each notch.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 3 to 7 and 10 to 13 as being obvious over Yoshihiko. Claims 2, 8 and 9 were similarly rejected as being obvious over Yoshihiko in view of Macha.

The Examiner cited the Yoshihiko reference to show a stator body having slots on the radial inside to accommodate conductors and to show periodically distributed notches on the outer edge. The Examiner states that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use a stator body made of a multiplicity of such segment lamentations.

Applicants submit that the present claimed invention now defines over this reference. In the reference, the notches are relatively large and filled with a mixture of magnetic iron powder and a thermosetting resin. This is provided to avoid hindering the electrical properties of the apparatus. This differs from the present invention which has very narrow notches which are not filled. Instead, only air is present in the notches, but they are small enough that electrical conductivity is not influenced badly. By having the notches only filled with air, the problem that the material filling the crack can crumble is avoided. Further, the manufacturing process is simplified.

This difference is now clearly brought out in amended Claim 1 which states that the notches are only filled with the atmosphere surrounding the stator body. Claim 15 specifies this atmosphere as air. The feature is not seen in the Yoshihiko reference and is in fact taught against with the presence of the magnetic mixture. For these reasons, Applicants submit that Claim 1 defines over this prior art.

Claims 3 to 7 and 10 to 13 depend from Claim 1 and as such are also considered to be

allowable. These claims recite specific features of the number of notches, the depth of the notches and the width of the notches. The Examiner states that these features would be matters of design choice. However, Applicants submit that these additional features are not seen in the reference and that accordingly these claims are additionally allowable.

The Examiner rejected Claim 2 as being obvious over Yoshihiko in view of Macha. The Examiner cited the Macha reference to show a relief opening at the end of notches. However, Applicants submit that even if this reference does show this feature, it does not aid the Yoshihiko reference in teaching the possibility of notches filled with air on the outer edge of the stator body. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 2 and Claims 8 and 9 which depend therefrom define over this combination of references.

Furthermore, Applicants note that the relief opening at the bottom of the notches are necessary to avoid cracks which is not necessary when the notches are filled. Further, it would not be obvious to use such relief openings such as shown in Macha because this device uses relief openings in cooling rings to compensate for a deformation due to a change of temperature in order to reduce the resonant frequency. This type of relief opening has no relationship with the function of the relief opening of the present invention. Thus it would not be obvious for one skilled in the art to use this teaching since it relates to a different problem of cooling instead of vibration prevention.

Applicants have also amended Claim 1 to remove language which could be considered to be indefinite.

In summary then, it is respectfully submitted that the references of record whether taken individually or in combination do not anticipate or obviate the structure which is fully disclosed and positively claimed in the present application. In view of this, it is submitted

that the inventions defined by each of Claims 1 to 15 are patentable and a favorable reconsideration and early allowance of the present application is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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